DOCUMENT RESUME

ED 200 122 HE 013 606

AUTHOR Campbell, Patricia
TITLE Why Go to College? (Freshmen Assess the Value of a College Degree).
PUB DATE Aug 80
NOTE 86p.; For related document, see HE 013 605.

EDRS PRICE MF01/PC04 Plus Postage.
DESCRIPTORS Career Development; *College Attendance; *College Freshmen; *Educational Benefits; Education Work Relationship; *Employment Potential; Employment Qualifications; Essays; Foreign Countries; Higher Education; Individual Development; Institutional Research; Intellectual Development; Student Attitudes; Student Development; *Student Educational Objectives; *Student Motivation
IDENTIFIERS *College of Cape Breton (NS)

ABSTRACT

The views of incoming college freshmen at the College of Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, about the value of a college education were assessed, as part of the college's annual 1978 entrance testing program. Students were asked to write an essay on this topic, along with a second essay about their language skills, which is described in a separate report. Of the 263 freshmen essay writers, all but 11 endorsed unequivocally the value of a college education. For 91.3 percent of respondents, job preparation was a reason for attending college; of those, 43.3 percent cited it as their sole reason. Of the remainder, some coupled job preparation with intellectual development (12.2 percent); some with social convention or personal conviction (14.4 percent); and others with character development (8 percent). Of the 23 (8.7 percent) who made no mention of job preparation, six (2.2 percent) said that they had come to college for intellectual development only; two (.8 percent) as a response to social convention or personal conviction alone. The rest of this group of 23 cited some combination of nonvocational incentives. An analysis of each of the cited reasons is presented that contains unedited student comments from the essays. Additional student essay comments are appended. It is concluded that students go to college largely because they feel it is essential to obtain well-paid, stimulating, and prestigious jobs. The implications of the view that college is a preparation for better living and that what one does for a living discharges one's social responsibility are briefly considered. (SW)

****
* Reproductions supplied by EDRS are the best that can be made *
* from the original document. *
****

ED200122

U S DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
EDUCATION & WELFARE
NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF
EDUCATION

THIS DOCUMENT HAS BEEN REPRODUCED EXACTLY AS RECEIVED FROM THE PERSON OR ORGANIZATION ORIGINATING IT. POINTS OF VIEW OR OPINIONS STATED DO NOT NECESSARILY REPRESENT OFFICIAL NATIONAL INSTITUTE OF EDUCATION POSITION OR POLICY

PERMISSION TO REPRODUCE THIS
MATERIAL HAS BEEN GRANTED BY

College Board

TO THE EDUCATIONAL RESOURCES
INFORMATION CENTER (ERIC)

WHY GO TO COLLEGE?

(Freshmen Assess The Value of a College Degree)

HE013 606

WHY GO TO COLLEGE?

(Freshmen Assess The Value
of a College Degree)

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

I am grateful to the Committee for the Evaluation of Research Proposals at the College of Cape Breton for supporting this project with a grant to underwrite the costs of typing and binding.

I want to thank Shirley DiPersio for typing the report and for advising me about its lay-out.

Finally, I extend best wishes for scholastic success to the students of the College of Cape Breton 1978-1979, who inspired the project.

August, 1980.

Patricia Campbell
Reading and Writing Development Centre
College of Cape Breton

(Reproduction or further distribution is permitted - nay, welcomed.)

TABLE OF CONTENTS

	Page
Introduction	1
Job Preparation	6
Intellectual Development	20
Response to Social Convention or Personal Conviction	26
Character Development	33
Related Comments	40
Conclusion and Afterword	48
Appendix: Additional Student Comment About Their Reasons for Going to College	50

INTRODUCTION

1. About the entrance test

It is customary for the College of Cape Breton, like many other post-secondary institutions, to administer some form of entrance test to all incoming freshmen. In September, 1978, I carried out the College's annual entrance testing program, the purpose of which was to sample and evaluate freshmen writing and from that sampling, to diagnose students' writing problems.

For the 1978 test, I set students two topics that I thought they would have given some thought to and that they could write about freely. I asked them to write two essays. In the first, they were to evaluate the adequacy of their preparation in language; to say, in short, whether they felt prepared to cope with the reading and writing assignments of the college courses in which they were about to enroll. The second test question asked them to discuss the value of a college education.

Although I had anticipated that what students said about those topics might well be as revealing as how well they wrote, I did not, at that time, foresee this project. However, as I scored the essays, the significance and the remarkable consistency of students' comments moved me to collate, analyse, and publicize students' opinions. In an earlier report, I analyzed students' answers to

the first test question; in this report, I examine their answers to the second.

2. About this study

My analysis of students' remarks consisted of three straightforward tasks only. The first, reading (and re-reading!) the entrance test essays, allowed me to identify four discrete reasons that students offered for going to college.

Second, I selected for the body of this report only those comments that I thought were most revealing. (I have appended the remaining excerpts.) I have not edited students' remarks: they appear complete with the syntactical, grammatical or spelling errors that are the most compelling evidence of what students say, in the report of the first part of this project, about their language problems.

Finally, I calculated the number and proportion of students in each of the four categories.

3. Summary

To the question, "Why go to college?" the responses of these freshmen were often rough-cast and at times incoherent, but they revealed clearly enough the values young people attach to a college education - why they chose to attend college. Some chose to go for

general enlightenment through liberal arts studies; others, in about equal numbers, viewed graduation from college as a personal challenge, or as a tradition, an obligation almost, to family or social class, or as a stepping stone to maturity - a rite of passage. But for most, a college education is not primarily a matter of educational ideals or traditional challenge or even personal growth: for the majority of this freshman class, college education is - or ought to be - vocational training, pure and simple.

4. Findings

(a) Response to the test question

Of the 265 freshmen who wrote the entrance test essay, only two failed to answer the test question as directed. (Those two commentaries are excluded from this report.) Of the 263 freshmen who complied with the test instructions, all but eleven endorsed unequivocally the value of a college education. The group of eleven argued that since the depressed economy makes unemployment likely, whatever one's credentials, it no longer makes sense to go to college, an argument which I interpreted as a vote for college - as - job - preparation and which led me to include its proponents among other respondents in that classification.

(b) Reasons for attending college

(i) For 240 students, or 91.3% of those who complied with the test instructions, job preparation was a reason for attending college; of those, 114 (43.3%) cited it as their sole reason. Of the remainder, some coupled job-preparation with intellectual development (thirty-two students, or 12.2%); some with social convention or personal conviction (thirty-eight or 14.4%); and others with character development (twenty-one or 8.0%). Still others combined it with two other reasons: with intellectual development and social convention/personal conviction (twelve or 4.6%); with intellectual and character development (twelve or 4.6%); or with social convention/personal conviction and character development (three or 1.1%). And finally, a handful cited all four reasons (eight or 3.0%).

(ii) Of the twenty-three (8.7%) who made no mention of job preparation, six (2.2%) said that they had come to college for intellectual development only; two (0.8%) as a response to social convention or personal conviction alone. No student cited character development solely. The rest of this group of twenty-three cited some combination of non-vocational incentives: intellectual development and

social convention/personal conviction - six or 2.2%; intellectual and character development - five or 1.9%; social convention/personal conviction and character development - two or 0.8%; and two students (0.8%) named all three non-vocational reasons.

(iii) Thus, counting the non-vocational reasons cited singly or in combinations, the tally reads: for intellectual development only or among other reasons, eighty-three students (31.5%); as a response to social convention or personal conviction, seventy-three (27.7%); and for character development, fifty-three (20.1%).

JOB PREPARATION

> *"When applying for a job as we, the future graduates are going to have to do it will be a great help that when on our application, in the small spot marked education, we can put down four years university instead of grade ten."*

In this survey, most responses show that the college freshman sees education almost entirely as vocational training: for nine out of ten freshmen questioned, job preparation headed the list of reasons for going to college; for four out of ten, it was the sole reason:

> *... our prime objective in this world is to get a job. We go to college so... we can get one.*

For these supremely pragmatic students, learning for learning's sake, the intrinsic worth of college study, is an outdated romanticism, a myth that cannot survive today's economic realities:

> *The days of getting a college degree just for the luxury of an education are gone. In this changing world we must make our education pay off. This is why those that do enter college most often train for a profession.*

That utilitarian outlook is not hard to understand: today's adolescent is the product of conditioning that equates education and certification and upholds the credential as the most powerful wedge into the job market. Thus:

> *...if you have the credentials to show you will be the one looking pretty.*

> *By obtaining a college degree you are more favourable to get a job today than one without a degree.*

And in a close contest, these students maintain, the college graduate will have the advantage of job applicants with less education:

> *A person looking for a job with a college education has a better chance of getting the job rather than a person with a high school education.*

> *It is always easier to get a job if you have more education backing you up... With that decree in his pocket he can get a job which a high school person could not get.*

> *... if a college graduate and a high school drop out were applying for the same job don't you think that a college graduate with more education would get the job.*

> *... if an employer has a choice at hiring to people, one with a high school diploma, and one with two years of college, he will probably pick the college student.*

That the college-level credential is what one student, unwittingly ironic, termed a "*decree*" seems to reflect consensus. Though unlikely yet to have looked for full-time work, students are convinced that evidence of formal education is decisive when employers rate job applicants:

> *... today no matter where you go to seek employment the amount of education you have is the first and most important fact taken into consideration.*

> *When going for a job interview, once the word is out that you are a college graduate he* [the employer] *becomes interested in you.*

> *The degree can help the job producer make up his mind quicker when it is noticed.*

And, students assert, however inessential for the task, a college degree could be crucial in obtaining even an unskilled or part-time job:

> *University and college students get summer jobs before high school students... at least a college degree would put them in the race of a job.*

> *An employer is more apt to hire a person holding a degree than a high school graduate even for a part time job in the summer.*

> *... in the* [manual] *labour field... a college graduate... is most likely given a job quicker than a non-college graduate.*

Furthermore, students maintain, though credentials are increasingly demanded for almost any job, they are prerequisite for the *"higher occupations"*. For would-be professionals, graduation from college is not a matter of choice, but of necessity. Students cite a range of professions - law, medecine, business administration, teaching, technology - entry to which calls for *"that little piece of paper called a degree"*:

> [As warning to aspirants to a profession]: *if you don't go to college, forget it.*

> *If a person wanted to be a physicist, architect, etc. he must have a college degree.*

You must also keep in mind that a college degree is the first stepping stone on the way to a profession such as a doctor, lawyer, etc. It is also necessary for people to obtain a degree in business...

In any field, post secondary education is needed no matter if one may go into trainning, service employment or business.

As examples, some students cite their own career choices:

I wish to enter the field of law, the trade school would not provide the right backing while university would... channel me into the correct direction... in a specific field.

Personaly I want to become an accountant of some kind, and right now there is very little chance of getting into this field without some college education.

I have chosen to go into electronic engineering about three years ago, so I have to go to college.

Without naming her goal, this student testifies:

For the field of work I wish it is necessary for me to go on for a college degree.

And if career plans miscarry, students are confident, college study increases competence and thus adaptability:

> *If, on completing university there are no job openings in his or her career field, one may be comforted in the fact that he or she has learned how to learn. This... will enable the student to be quickly trained in another field.*
>
> *Also if a person graduates from college and he cannot find a good he is now able to go on to try something knew without the worry or conflict of not having the knowledge or capacity to go on and learn something knew.*
>
> *If they go into something they don't like they can change their mind and go into another field... They won't have to start from scratch because they will have a background in something.*
>
> *Without a decree a person could be locked into an occupation because that is all he knows how to do, but with a college decree he could switch jobs.*
>
> *Often a person who majored in something can fall back on some part of his studies or in a related field of his major.*
>
> *The person with the college degree would be able to understand the deeper mechanics of his job and the closely related jobs around him.*

So, while they see it as augmenting their power, generally, in the job market, students accept without question that college is the main road, if not the only road, to the most desirable occupations; to work that is:

Lucrative and secure:

> *Academic young people are forced to go to college if they wish to obtain a job... and receive a substantial amount of money.*
>
> *Jobs that are found after recieving a college degree are well-paid ones.*
>
> *The graduates that... go on from high school to attend college will be the smart students. These are the students who after spending a few years in college, will be able to obtain jobs where the most money is involved.*
>
> *A person who wants to establish a high standard of living <u>should</u> get a degree.*
>
> *Most people go to college for training of a job where they can get money and live a good life after college.*
>
> *Let's face it, we are the type of society that wants things - material things, such as a car. To buy such things, you have to be making good money. A stenographer just can't go out and buy a new car. If you land a job with a college degree, chances are you are going to be making good money.*

... the higher paying jobs are going to college graduates. Presently I believe the highest paid college veterans are among those of the architectural profession as a good architect could make as much as two hunderd thousand dollars for an afternoon.

One has only to drive around Boulderwood [a prosperous neighbourhood] *here in Sydney and ask the residents how many of them went to college or university.*

College based jobs will... provide more personal security. In [non-college] *jobs I know the hiring rate is the highest, but I would suspect that the firing rate would be the highest.*

... people with the higher education can get jobs that are more or less permanent or at least are better than some jobs (such as grants) which only last a short while and then the person is unemployed.

Jobs heald by highly educated professionals are not quite so easy to find, but once you find it, employment usually continues until you decide to give it up.

I think the going for a job that requires a degree is a lot better because you feel secure and it probably pays more... [in other jobs] *when it get slow, some people are lay off. The jobs that require degrees are good long lasting jobs and pay fairly well.*

Or intellectually appealing, or challenging, or fulfilling:

Having a job which was provided by the fact that you had a college degree, is most likely a job that will make use of your mind and will probably be the type of job with a challenge to it.

With a college degree... the brain is forced to be active and therefore, the job is fulfilling and rewarding.

With a college degree... one is more apt to find a job that will fulfill his needs as a person, should one acquire a degree.

... for a job they will enjoy; which arouses their interest and challenges them, then a college degree would be right for them.

... college is the best way to unite their job with their desires... to make a career where their advocation and vocation unite... They have the need and the right to go for a occupation they feel they would like and be satisfied with.

For me it is of the upmost importance for a person to achieve not only success but happiness along with success in the job area he chooses. At the present my goal is to become a physical education instructor. I have chosen this career

not for the money or large summer vacation but because the one thing I want is to teach...

I, for instance, know I would be better off in a trade school, along with half the students currently attending colleges and universities. But the thought of the drudgery involved in those jobs... turns me off completely. I, personally find more challenge and fulfillment in the job of Historian.

What is important is that a person needs to have challenges and horizons to leap for... He has to have a goal to look for, a chance to increase himself, not a hide away in a job where he shouldn't be in the first place... where he would end up in a 9-5 situation, never realizing or utilizing his potential to his own peace of mind and satisfaction.

Or prestigious:

A person may also wish to look at the status for although one may be a plumber and getting excellent money a person with a college job getting less money may still have more status.

... to the student today, the thought of being a blue collar worker is not appealing enough and for those who feel the need, or poccess the want, for a higher education, the stature and prestige that can be associated with an important job and position, is a tempting proposition.

Or beneficent, promoting the common good:

> *There is a need for educated people as a college degree can very important and useful in society.*

> *I think to that college graduates would be able to help out the people in the world more than the people with a lower form of education because they would have more knowledge about certain things.*

> *These jobs... are more critical to society. Doctors, teachers, architects, etc. are all needed by society.*

> *I would probably feel more useful if I had a job from college training because I would be working to help other people such as a teacher does.*

These students appraise the contribution to society that can be made in certain professions:

> *... professionals are what keep society moving ahead. If nobody bothered for a degree in engineering, who would design new cars which an energy short world needs or if nobody went for a medical degree, who would cure the sick.*

> *Most politicians must be very well educated to handle their jobs as effectively and as wfficiently as possible.*

> *Business cannot function properly when there are no skilled, trained business people to oversee the operation. Hospitals require trained, intelligent people, if they are to save lives. Researchers must continue to search for clues, if they are to solve the problems of the world, such as poverty, the economy and disease. The world cannot function properly without leaders and where would we be if those leaders were uneducated and unable to do so efficiently.*

> *I would think that on the basis of their contribution to society physicists, psychologists, architects, and so on contribute more to society than sales-people, stenographers...*

> *Where would we be now if Banting and Best had become pipefitters, if Pasteur had decided to go to the Tar Sands and work on an oil rig, or if the woman who could discover a cure for cancer didn't because her mother told her to be a secretary.*

Furthermore, students are persuaded, the more profitable, prestigious and socially-useful occupations demand a degree of specialization that only college-level training can supply:

After all, most areas of endeavour are highly specialized today and to succeed in them or even successfully enter them you must be equipped.

A college degree... shows you have attained a certain level of knowledge in a particular field.

A person with a college degree would have a better chance of getting the job because he is trained for the job.

Companies want students with a higher degree of education because they feel that they will be better qualified for the job.

And, it can be inferred from the following excerpts, studies and other experiences at college will help to uncover the occupational interests and aptitudes of those who might not yet have given much thought to future employment:

I think a good reason for a young person to go to college is that it gives them time to... think about what they want to do with their life.

I would prescribe it [college] *to any high school graduate who is not sure what they want in life.*

... if you are not sure of what you are interested in, college is almost a sure way to discover your interests.

> *The person coming out of high school and not knowing or not sure what he wants to do should go to college... In college one might see if he is cut out for a type of work and can discover possibly what he is good at and in which direction he wishes to go.*

Thus, for these students, two factors - the personal and social benefits that employment in the professions is believed to confer, and the advanced formal training believed to be necessary in those specialties - justify employers' demand for post secondary level credentials and make the case for going to college. What's more, students maintain, college study, even if not aimed at a particular vocation, can help the undecided choose a career.

INTELLECTUAL DEVELOPMENT

> *"Some people go to college just to gain knowledge."*
>
> *"We are products of a society that strives toward greater knowledge and understanding and therefore feel inclined to continue our education through university in an attempt to gain a greater knowledge."*

For many students in the entrance test group, the value of a college education is not limited to job preparation; they see college study, as the route to knowledge and intellectual development, to be one of college's most important attractions. (Eighty-three students, or 31.5% of freshmen polled cited it as one of their reasons for attending college. Six of that group named it as their only reason.)

Some assessments of the intellectual value of college-level study, though enthusiastic, were broad, expressed in terms of the conventional wisdom:

> *... it is fantastic to go on to college as it expands your mind.*
>
> *Everyone should have a broader outlook on the future, the past and the present, This can only be achieved through a college education.*

College is a chance to better one's outlook and knowledge on many thing's in life.

Maybe the purpose of a college or university is to produce enlightened people.

There are always some people whose capacity to learn is not restricted to the same degree as that of others. Knowledge is a drug which feeds their bodies because learning does not take place without adrenalin... The mind automatically seeks out complexity and university can offer that challenge. It is another avenue of life to explore on the path to human fulfillment... it can put you on the right path.

To be well educated can only benefit you. You will be able to understand more... We will not be able to understand everything all the time but at least with a college degree that means you have studied and learned more. The more knowledge a person gains the better equipted a person will be. For your own seft benefit you have to have a good education. To have had the opportunity to learn more can only benefit you and the people around you. You will use this knowledge one way of another in your life no matter what you do.

If you were to remove the privilage of education from the general man. You would put back the known knowledge of this planet back about 10 years for every one it got ahead.

> *Because for every year you would lose 9/10 of what the sum total of educated people are today. Eventually you would end up back in a form of the dark ages.*

> *If they didn't* [attend college] *a country will be deprived of its youthful nourishment that college's breathes into society... This will inable a college... to push or lead us to a more refined and inlightening way to live.*

> *There are those who go... to learn and become a better and more intelligent person. I firmly believe the old cliche that education broadens the mind. More broad minds in this world would definitely not harm it.*

Other assessments, no less fervent, were more particular:

> *... to be able to read a poem, analize and see the beauty in it can be very touching. The discoveries of science seem remarkable and to read of people in the past is adventurous.*

> *This degree is a valuable thing in itself, for most college courses are society orientated such as sociology and psychology. You do not obtain an incite into these topics with most high school educations.*

> *College courses such as Psychology and related fields tend to make us understand and allows us to communicate more easily... to lisson, analyze and use data at the proper time.*

One student believes that the *"thinking courses, philosophy, social sciences"* that college offers *"allow the student to explore his thoughts and opinions."* Another feels that exposure to the college curriculum ensures that:

> *The student has gained a more proportional and well balanced education.* [At college] *the good use of the language and knowledge of history and many other subjects... help balance out one's education.*

Besides the knowledge base that college courses are expected to build, students trust that college study will hone the tools used in intellectual development:

> *The habit of reading college texts expands the individual's reading capacity. The practice of studying as well develops an individual's concentration.*

College study is expected to exercise and polish the higher order intellectual skills too:

I believe that the main object of colleges... is to stimulate the mind and learn knowledge but it is also to learn to think. Thinking is the key to life no matter what the profession or job... This think is not done by college or university but by the people themselves. These college and such institution mearly lay down the background upon which we learn to think more.

Education broadens the mind and it makes people think rationally and thoroughly.

Our minds are challenged with many current issues and we must strive to make accurate and necessary conclusions.

In fact, according to two students, the capacity for close and reasoned examination of issues is a mark of the college-educated:

... college graduates are more reasonable and the world needs a great many people of this sort. These are the type of people that can sit down and think on problems and try to straighten them out.

Also I feel that if a student goes through college he is a much smarter person, quick thinker and able to plans things in his mind through the procedure of hypothesis, procedure etc. A college graduate is a thinking man much better equiped to tackle a problem and comes with a good solution.

For most students who see attendance at college as a vital factor in their intellectual development, the pay-off comes not primarily in job placement, but in being better equipped-because of their greater knowledge and ability in problem-solving - to deal more effectively with diverse issues and circumstances (and, one girl implies, significantly, to contribute effectively to the intellectual development of one's children):

> *Take, for example, a relatively unimportant issue such as sex discrimination Education prepares you for taking the right attitude towards it and to not being narrow minded about people who are different from you. Education allows you to see the advantages in the difference.*

> *As a citizen and perhaps mother someday, just think of the advantages of having your degree. You'll be able to read up on coming elections and actually understand what they're all about (a quite a bit anyway.) Your child comes home from school and you can actually answer his question intelligently...*

RESPONSE TO SOCIAL CONVENTION OR PERSONAL CONVICTION

> *"Some people, friends of mine for example, are going to college just because its college."*

For seventy-three students (27.7% of those questioned), going to college was a response to social convention or private conviction; for two of this group, it was the sole reason. For example, some students cite the influence of a prevailing social convention: that of expecting the young to go to college as evidence of their intelligence and ambition. In effect, college has become not simply the opportunity of every high school graduate; it is now a social obligation as well:

> *Some students feel that if they do not make the best of their abilities, then they have let down their family, friends and also themselves. This pressure is a cause of much intimidation to the student when deciding on a vocation, and can influence his or her choice greatly, to the point of making a valuable and costly mistake.*

A few testify to having been pressured by their parents:

Since I started school my parents have told me to get a good education by going to college. I think most people are in the same boat.

... ever since I was a child my parents stressed how important it was for me to go to college, to receive a good education to better myself by finding a job and how easily I could obtain this job if I first I recieved a college degree. With this constantly being brought to my attention I always felt it would be an advantage to get a degree and anyone who took a trade or did not go to college was inferior.

For most students in this group, however, going to college was a personal challenge, born of a private conviction about the ultimate or immediate value of a college degree. For instance, for many the challenge lies in acquiring what amounts to a prized possession. A college degree is:

... a precious and rare thing that should be a valued possession to everyone.

... a valuable device.

... something that is highly cherished and highly recognized.

... a priceless asset.

Or an academic insurance policy, whose value is universally acknowledged and ever redeemable:

> *A college degree is something you will always have to fall back on.*
>
> *A college degree is something you will always have... it will always be there for you to depend on.*
>
> *A college student when finished will be educated to a high level and will have his education to back him or her up...*
>
> *Those people who are college graduates... will always have something to rely on.*

Or an Order of Merit:

> *You can look back on getting a degree with pride. You made an attempt to exceed mediocrity. You want to excell.*
>
> *The way I look at thinks is I want to be educated just to see how smart I am and I want to be something in life. I would have something to show that I am not just like the next guy.*
>
> *... as long as he has his degree, he has the chance to move up in the world, whereas without it, he would probably have no chance at all of doing so.*

> *I would like to say that I'm one of those people who thinks he can expand his abilities, to the point where I can choose my mark in life at the top rather than the middle.*

> *... you have reached that plateau where you can add B.A. or B.Sc. after your signature... People who attend college evidently want to better themselves...*

And the chance to take up the collegiate challenge comes, some students believe, but once in a lifetime:

> *This is pretty well your last chance to learn as for the rest of your life you will probably be working at some type of job. Personally, I want to learn as much as I can now, as I may never get the chance again...*

> *College is your chance for an education which you will receive only once.*

> *Talking to elderly people and observing where they are today wishing they had an opportunity again to go on and receive an education, makes you realize how lucky we are...*

For other students, going to college is a matter of self-respect: one's self-esteem depends on having tried to succeed at college:

A college degree can give a person a sense of accomplishment and lets the person know that he is worth something.

... it's the feeling of haveing achieved something in life that maket it [college] *worthwhile.*

A college degree is very important... for giving you a feeling of fulfillment.

... a student ought to prove to himself that he can'get a degree.

I won't be satisfied on till I least tired to make a go of college.

... at least I will know I've tried to do something worthwhile in my life.

Conversely, not to go to college invites guilt and, ultimately, self-contempt:

If you deny yourself that education you feel cheated and lose a lot of respect for yourself.

If I did go to a technical school I'll always feel that I'm missing an important and meaningful part of my life by not going to college.

Plus the fact that many people working in the labour market may not be satisfied with themselves, feeling they have not achieved the most in life.

I am going to college now because latter on in months or years I do not want to say to myself, "Why didn't I go to college and receive a good education." At least if I go now it doesn't fit me, I'll know that I gave it a try.

This type of person who doesn't go for his degree can have huge psycololocal problems. He will never know if he could have made it... College provides the chance... Those who don't take advantage of it are only twisting the noose around their own neck.

Finally, for some, college is a way of marking time, of filling the gap between public school and the workplace. With no appropriate employment in sight and no other objectives in mind, these students see college merely as an alternative to idleness and drifting:

If I was not going to attend college and obtain some sort of a degree there wouldn't be much for me to do.

... if a person who has Graduated from high shcool and does not have the job he is looking for insight, then he should go on to college rather than sit around doing nothing.

If more people furthered there education... there would be less unemployment and less young people living on the streets...

People just out of high school, with out a college degree, find it very difficult to secure any type of employment. I have a firm persuasion that this is why many people choose to continue their education.

If a person does not know exactly what they are most interested in, going to College is a great alternative.

... some may choose a specific job but many are undecided and go to college for a degree.

I would rather go to college then be out working which I don't like.

CHARACTER DEVELOPMENT

> *"College will shape a person's character."*
>
> *"The maturing process of college often justifies the students enrollment all by itself."*

For fifty-three students, or 20.1% of those who wrote the entrance test essay, college is mainly "*a place to grow up*"; the college years a period of self-development; the college community a fellowship in which to test opinions, examine values, and grow in self-confidence. Attendance at college, say several of this group, promotes hitherto unaccustomed self-analysis:

> *College is really where you find much more about yourself.*
>
> *One only knows who he or she really is after being in college... [There] one must know and understand oneself...*
>
> *Having to live with oneself at college, ... one is force to know ourselves good and bad points.*

And self-discipline:

> *College gives to us a responsibility, a type of responsibility that must be followed or else we are forced into quitting... the change we make from irresponsible children to responsible adults.*
>
> *College life helps people to mature, and gives them standards and qualities...*
>
> *When one lives away from home, without the security of family's and neighbours' loyalties... Discipline is a must... and is an important part of growing up.*
>
> *A college education... will teach you a sense of responsibility and learn you to cope.*
>
> *College also... can teach you the responsibility of looking after yourself and the money you owe the government to go to college. You have to be able to learn to handle the money so that not a cent will be wasted.*
>
> *At this stage of the game, there is no one around to urge, coax, push you ahead. You must accept your workload and be responsible enough to see that you allocate the proper amount of time for studying, recreation, etc.*

And self-confidence:

> *In this psycological society with its day by day constant pressures, people need more*

> *and more to be sure of themselves, not to be lost in self-doubt. A college education provides this confidence.*

And self-reliance:

> *In high school you are still living a sheltered life... By going to college you are put into a whole new situation where often you are completely independent, living on your own, and away from home and you must fend for yourself.*

> *For many people, college is a sort of turning point. For some, it is the first time they have been away from home or on their own. Thus, they have to learn what it is to be independent - to rely on oneself.*

> *When a person goes to college they experience a different sort of education. The student must begin to manage themselves. There is no one to take them by the hand and lead them. A student must make many important decesion and their own.*

Only one student, however, identified precisely this significant step in self-development:

> *College also helps us... to break away from family beliefs we were willing to except years before.*

Some students see the plentiful opportunities for group association and the need to meet the demands of communal living as contributing to personal growth in yet other ways:

> *College, I have always believed, is more than just classrooms and courses. It is meeting young adults, participating in activities with them. It can help develop social skills, community awareness and friendships that are as important to your future happiness as is the security of a job.*

> *... a college education is more than just a way to get a job. The experience you get with meeting other people would make it worthwhile. You must be able to deal with and communicate with others.*

> *Going to college itself gives a person greater knowledge and can relate to people better than someone who didn't attend college at all.*

> *I feel it is one of the colleges greatest assets where you are in touch with people your own age and learn their ideas of how they plan to make it in the outside world.*

The prospect of exposure to a mix of cultural backgrounds and personality types is relished by some:

> *... college does offer a lot of fun as well as study and one can... meet people of different backgrounds from out-of-province or even out-of-country.*

Even the people you become associated with from different parts of the world enhance your education as well.

College can teach you other opinions that people have. In our society there are many types of people with many forms of reasonings and to be able to get along in the working world we need to know different kinds of people and how they think.

At college students meet varied and interesting people that share and enlighten them with their knew ideas.

Through college we associate with new people, we come into contact with personalities we never new of before. We often examine these personalities, copying the good and eliminating the bad.

Also, a college degree means meeting new people. A sense of cooperation and understanding is necessary to survive in a college atmosphere. All walks of life are encountered and many new ideas come from each person.

It is, however, in the years after college, as adults, that students expect to reap the greatest benefit from the maturity and sophistication acquired at college:

A wealth of experience may be obtained from college society to help in the practical aspects of life.

In everyday conflicts a degree may help you understand other people's views and accept it as part of life. These years at college may also be able to make you look at yourself and the world and to know the capabilities of both...

The education which a student receives in college is most definitely going to be beneficial once he enters the working world. The student learns to apply himself to what he does and finish what he starts.

College students [will] take a stand, express themselves.

[College graduates] will be able to make stands on issues and defened them.

The education one receives at college does a lot more than train one. It gives a person maturity and hopefully the ability to face the outside world. This is what makes college valuable. Furthermore the self discipline and culture one receives can never be taken away. You become less sceptable to being cheated by society.

The college graduate has learned the rules of the game and will be able to cope with and handle the problems that society hands out.

This [college] experience, I feel, is something which will guide our lives and nuture within ourselves the qualities of leadership and understanding.

In general, those who included it among the advantages of attending college acknowledged that character development will, as one student put it, "*make you a better person all around... which also makes life a little more happier.*"

RELATED COMMENTS

Some of the most provocative remarks in students' entrance test essays could not be conveniently classified as reasons for going to college. They are of interest, nevertheless, because they further explain students' perception of education and, particularly, because they reveal the freshman's outlook as naive, conditioned and even unconsciously elitist.

For example, many freshmen appear to be bound fast to a youthful fascination with a particular profession: they muse wistfully about "*getting the job I always wanted*"; they yearn for professional employment as "*the fulfillment of* [their] *aspirations*," of "*a childhood dream*," or of their "*life's dream... [Their] greatest desire.*" There are other testimonials to this premature fixation:

> *When we were growing as small children, we had dreams of what it would be like when we became the adults of society. We dreamed of being doctors, teachers, firemen, etc. and how we would change the world for the betterment of everybody.*

> *Ever since you were a smal. child people often ask what your going to be when you grow up. You think about it and give an answer and very often when you graduate that is still what you want to do.*

I feel that College will... help you in securing the job you always wanted... I want to be a lawyer or an historian In order to reach this dream I need a university degree.

I feel it makes sense for me and for anyone else to attend college, if it is the road to attain the goal they have set. The person chooses what he wants to be and he strives to become it... To me, college is an important stepping stone to the goal and dreams I have.

For me there has never been an alternative to university. My desire to enter the literary field in some capacity has made it impossible to think along any other lines. For many others the same feeling applies. They feel they must go to university to further their career hopes.

... we should always as they say "stick to your guns" do what you have decided... I've always wanted to teach... I have no future in doing anything else, its what I want to do.

The freshman's ingenuousness is evident, too, in his seemingly unshakeable faith that determination and positive thinking will ensure academic and vocational success: the self-confident, ambitious college graduate's superiority must, students believe, be recognized and rewarded:

I also feel if a person really wants to succede, and he tries really hard and does his best he can have the success, and this goes for finding a job as well.

My advice would be to find something you will like and be prepared to put one hundred per cent effort into so that when you do get your degree and there are only a few jobs open for you, you will be qualified for it. That with sheer determination to do what you want will make your years at college worth it.

The thing is though if you want something bad enough you will get it. You can do ANYTHING if you want to.

Be an optimist and try your best. Where there's a will there's a way. Maybe I am talking in cliches and maybe I am an idealist but I think there is a position waiting for every single person...

If there is only one opening and a person is the best in his or her field then he or she should get a job.

With ambition, a person can go through college and get one of the openings in his field no matter how limited the openings may be.

My defence for the student lies in the student's determination. If one

is the best there is in his field... there will always be a job open to him.

... one thing is noticeable, or it is to me, that is the top people in each field find jobs easily, I feel if one is to give up four or five years of his life to study the field in which he is interested, he as might as well give everything he has. In this stage of the game the fun is over and the work has begun. The best comes out on top and that's were I'll be even if I have to study day in and night out to get there, but once your there! your there for good.

Freshmen accept other conventional wisdom too - like the current college - job linkage. In fact, not only do they see college almost exclusively as job training, as was reported in chapter 1, they never question the rationale for that practice. It is right, they imply, that entry to the job market be governed by credentials, if only because that prescription protects the college student's sweat equity and his cash investment.

Furthermore, to take advantage of that protective linkage and so secure the pay-off to which they feel the degree entitles its holders, they urge other freshmen and prospective college students to be mindful of the marketability of college programs:

I also feel a student should look closely at what he is about to take in his college years. I feel a student should select a field where, when he is through his degree is will be able to locate employment with considerable ease.

Knowing the decision which you will make is going to affect you forever it is very wise to check the job figures to see if the job you have chosen is one that holds a promising future.

Young people must try to be trained for jobs which will have many openings... they must plan ahead and choose a degree which will have many job opportunities and different outlets...

I believe a young person... should choose their courses very carefully. Most students should stay away from the traditional courses such as Arts and should instead take courses in science and communication which will prepare them...

And, they add, college administrators must offer courses that match the current needs of employers:

It seems that somehow the directors of colleges must work the studies around the job opportunities. Many courses are not well-suited for getting an education which is job-

oriented... If students and professors work together then maybe the courses can be taught in a way better suited for the jobs.

... colleges must train people of real life and not [be] *so abstract.*

[There should be] *a variaty of courses that relate to business which is not academic but are taught as relative in the outside world today.*

Colleges now adays I believe though should offer practical experience... it should prepared us for the working class.

The freshman's predilection for the professions and his conviction that college-level professional training is the rational extension of childhood dreams and adolescent ambition suggest an underlying if unwitting elitism. The aspiring professional is intelligent, energetic and enterprising, "*willing to put forth a valiant effort,*" one of "*those ambitious souls who wish to better themselves...*" The professional-in-training is also, we are told, a risk-taker, one for whom "*the sence of competition and the knowledge that what you want is not a sure thing is the ingredient...*"

In contrast, those who, for whatever reason, choose not to attend college, it is implied, are inferior, fit only for hewing and

drawing; they are the "*manually or mechanically inclined*":

> *The genius people will go to college and become doctors, lawyers, phys. ed. instructors while the not so academically inclined will take trades.*

> *... it would be better for the average person to go to trade school, but the smarter people should go on to be a doctor, lawyer, or something else highly specialized.*

> *We must consider that not all people are meant for college.*

> *... not everyone is tuned for college, nor is everyone tuned for labor trainning.*

> *In my opinion I believe that people are inclined for certain areas. A boy that has lived on a farm all his life, and likes the clean life should stay on the farm... If that boy is inclined as a farmer then let him stay as a farmer. Also a student who is good in math might be inclined for engineering. It makes no sense if that student went out and bought a gas station. So I believe that a person should enter into whatever it is that person is inclined for.*

> *If a person hated homework and would much rather be out in the driveway improving and repairing his car it would be appropriate for him to be a mechanic rather than go for a college degree in science.*

I feel that the world needs Historians just as it does stenographers. I think when it comes right down to it, they are involved in the same area of indeavor; the stenographers record what the Historians evaluate and compile, etc.

I believe that if a person has the ability to aquire enough knowledge to get a degree he or she should do so. Doing this will leave more positions open for the less intelligent thus less educated people. They may aquire the skills and do theese trades and so called lower class jobs.

CONCLUSION

From what these freshmen say comes one obvious conclusion - that students go to college, not primarily for the liberating effect of higher education, as we may like to suppose; not even primarily for personal development, though many mention that incentive. First and foremost, students go to college because they feel they must if they are to stand any chance in the race for well-paid, stimulating, prestigious jobs.

AFTERWORD

That students are locked into the perception of college as job preparation is probably inevitable in light of the influences that have shaped them: the view, generally, that college is the route to better living; the insistence, by employers and professionals themselves, on tying jobs to credentials; the faith that the work ethic rewards initiative and diligence; the belief that one is what one does for a living, that the contribution a person makes to society by virtue of his occupation discharges his social responsibility.

Nor are students' convictions to be disputed, at least not in the absence of wholesale social change. Yet, those convictions should

give us pause nonetheless: if they signal an inability to question, challenge or criticize, or if they imply a tendency to dismiss alternative points of view or, worse still, an ignorance of other views, then they say something alarming about the nature of preparatory public schooling; about the chance of developing, at the college level, the ability or the willingness to question; and ultimately, about students' effectiveness as citizens.

Appendix: Additional Student Comment About Their Reasons for Going to College

More About Job Preparation

- *He [college graduate] has a better chance of getting a job than most people...*

- *College students are usually preferred over those without the education.*

- *A person with a degree is more than likely going to get a job than one who doesn't obtain a degree.*

- *The college degree will make job hunting easier and give the graduate a wide range of job choices.*

- *Older people always say that a high education will cause more job opportunities to a person than to one without a good education ...*
  By receiving a college degree, a person is able to adjust to their society's needs, in that, many job opportunities can be obtained easier than to a person without any extra decent education today.

- *I feel attending and graduating from university will give a person more security in future years when he or she goes out into the world looking for a job...*

- *A employer today because of the unemployment situation has a wide field to pick from when he wants to fill a job. He can pick from High School dropouts and from High School graduates or from College Graduates.*
  The employer wants the best to represent his product or firm and because of unemployment he can choose the College Graduate.

- *... many college graduates are forced to take jobs which do not relate to their degree. A degree, in this case, would seem to be a waste but not when we look at competition. Competition is a big factor when it comes to seeking employment, so a person with a college degree is more apt to get a job before one who is only a high school graduate.*

- *A college degree will never harm anyone's chances of obtaining a job whether it is in that person's particular field or not ...*
  If a college student finishes his course but cannot find a job relating to his course, he is more apt to obtain a job rather than someone who does not have a college degree.

- [Example] There is one opening for a hospital attendant, two males of approximedly the same build and same age apply, but, there is one slight difference the first man has grade ten education and the second has two year university. Which man got the job?
..... people with further education are most likely to get the jobs.

- ... a college degree would certainly help when applying for a job... If you don't go to college all you are doing is closing doors that could lead to jobs in your face.

- On a job application form a degree may get you a job, every little bit helps.

- I feel for myself a college education is more benifical because there are more oppertunties avilable to one of higher learning.

- I feel that a person going to college who does not have a chosen career and taking a degree such of a B.A. is only wasting thier time unless they are going to use it as a prerequisit for a chosen profession.

- I feel it makes sense to go on for a college degree because with it you are usually classed as a proffessional... There will probably be a job somewhere.

- There are many jobs that require a degree, and if a student wants that type of job then they must attend college.

- In my opinion, I feel there is no sense in going to college to take something that if in the end there is only a 10% chance of getting a job in that field ...
I do feel though that each person has somekind of idea of what he wants to do when he gets out of high school, and if this requires more of an education than he has, well you go to college and get your degree in what you need and hope for the best.

- ... in most cases a rewarding, fulfilling job requires a college degree. So to live life to the fullest, college is an essential stepping stone to your goal.

- If the person wants a job that requires a college degree naturally he or she will go to college.

- ... at least <u>try</u> to obtain the job you always wanted, and this cannot be done if you do not go to college.

- Now most young people getting out of high school want to plan their future, not by getting some part time job, but by having a career to depend upon or in later years to fall back upon.

- ... The occupation he wishes to obtain is recieved at a college.

- A college education ... prepares us for our future employment ... A future job is only one of the many things college prepares us for...

- If you have already decided what you want to do, and it requires a college degree, then of course it makes sense to go to college.

- For the field of work I wish, it is necessary for me to go on for a college degree... It is senseless for a young person to go on to college for the type of position that is very scarce for him unless he has a lot of determination. Otherwise, it would be a waste of time for him.

- It still makes sense, to me, for a young person to go to college. Especially if that person is a female. [The choice of trades training] is not always opened to females. Most cannot fit into the mechanics/ repairman classification of jobs.

- Usually a person who goes on to college has an interest in something and they want to recieve an education to fulfill that interest.
  Also, if you have a degree you are usually insured a job in the field of your choice that you've study. Salaries are also usually higher because of your degree.

- I am going in for business and feel there are numerous good jobs in this field. The world can't survive without business.

- I feel that if a young person going to college has one particular occupation in mind that they want to do, then why not go to college so they can get it.

- If I do obtain my degree in Business Administration and I am not completely positive that I will, at least, I will be ready if I get a chance for a job that I have been prepared for even if it may take some time for this to happen.

- A college degree can be beneficial because it expresses a greater amount of knowledge in one field. You become a specialist, and because of this you are able to handle the job more effeciently.

- If a person wants to further his education and gain knowledge in a certain field it is a good idea. Sometimes it is necessary because without college training the person would not be able to do his job correctly.

- The person with the college degree would never the less still benefit I feel. Wouldn't it be much easier to obtain the job with the higher education.

- ... a high school graduate should get a higher education if he is in a society with higher level jobs, or move to a society with high level job opportunities.
  The reason why I'm here is because I want a job that will apply to my standards of intelligence.

- When you go looking for a job, the employeer looks to see if your capable to do the work. To know this, he asks you for your standards in education. If your standard is low, he'll think twice. If someone better is standing in line, you lose.
  .... Before you are ready for a job you must have the know-how without it you'll fail.

- In a persons life he is working until sixty-five years of age. During those years the world is changing just as you are. If you loose your job than you must look for another. There may be several persons looking for the same job. All you the people have the same credentials - a high school diploma. In getting a job it will be the first come or the so-called drag.

- A person may be happy with the job they have at the present but who's to say that they won't change their mind in five years or so and have to go through college then or be stuck with a job they don't like. A person who gets a degree in science or arts will then have many choices of where to go after they get their degree.

- When I consider how many friends I've talked to through high school. Their attitude is to get the piece of paper called a degree and use it as a springboard into the job market.

- The only people today who need to go to college are the people who want to specialize in some field and hope they have a job when they graduate.

- If that job ... that he has prepared for ... is not present, he can easily train in a short period of time to become a member of one of the lesser types of occupations...

- ... college still will benefit them. They may realize what they had planned to do, does not really suit them, and therefore go into another field.

- As a precaution, a person should always leave a "back door" open when attending college. This would be in the line of a second carreer choice, so if one fails, there is always the second to fall back on.

- Carefully chosing courses allows room to manouver if by chance you should change your mind about what you want to be. If not - a college graduate is often given preference over unskilled people or those who haven't completed grade twelve because he has shown the type of qualities needed such as dependability, maturity and a stick with it attitude.

- ... a college degree can pave the way for many more jobs than can a stenographic course ... The college degree is just the first step and it leads to bigger and better things. If a person with a college degree cannot obtain a job with that degree he can continue his education if he wants to.

- The higher education would definitely make the world easier to understand. He would be disciplined in certain areas and if ever he did become bored with his job he could move on to bigger and better things.

- ... most people have second & third choises.

- With a degree, you have the opsion of becoming whatever you want.

- Also another reason a college degree is good is that it enables a person to go into other fields of work that a high school diploma would not.

- About four or more years ago the demand for teachers went down and many were left jobless but did that stop young people from going into college for a degree in teaching. Eventually they started to branch off in teaching handicapped children, so in our world of advance, man will always find more jobs in which people with college degrees can branch off.

- If a person gets his degree in a certain field, such as Business Adm., I think he would have a much better chance of getting a job as a retail salesperson.

- If jobs came along requiring a college degree you would have a chance at that too. Because you have a degree doesn't mean you can't work in the labor field but you will always have the degree if something comes along that requires it.

- ... in my position it is much better for me to get my college degree for as the field which I am persueing it gives me many possible job opertunities where as a person who is persueing a trade has only one possible direction and that in the way of his trade.

- Even if there are no jobs open in the field that a person has studied for in college, they can always work at any job for a while until such time that they can obtain a job in the field in which they have studied for. They will always have the college degree to back them up.

- As the population grows, more jobs will be opening up in existing fields as will new ones be created ... But even if I do find I made the wrong choice, there is always the RCMP.

- Although some jobs do not require college degrees, most jobs prefer college graduates, since they have a higher level of education ... Even if a person becomes a worker in a job that requires little, or no college skills, that person might want to go on to a professional job later on, but wouldn't be able to, because he doesn't have a college degree.

- ... means that you have a bigger field to choose from if you go to college. You can pick something you like if there are more choices.

- After obtaining a college degree a person is then qualified for more jobs than before he got the degree... It is always good to have as much education as possible because with an education you are opening up new opportunities to yourself, where as with just a high school education you are limiting your chances at certain jobs you may want to have in the future.
  ... A College background will likely increase your chances of getting the job you are looking for.

- If a person should choose not to go to college and instead take a job as a salesperson, he/she is stuck with that job. They do not have the required skills to get anything else. But if he should decide to go to college and further his education he not only could take a job as a salesperson, but he could leave when something better cropped up.

- If a person come out of college and is unemployed he can then turn to a trade. Or while in college he see's this is not for him he can then change.

- I myself do not know what I want to do when I finish college but I feel that the variety of jobs open to me with a B.A. will be larger and better than the jobs open to someone who went to trade school and specialized in something like a stationary engineer or a custodian.

- If a person is sure that he wants to work at a job that needs no college degree until he retires, why should he need a college degree. But if a person is unsure about his fucher, and maybe later on in life he would like a new job. Perhaps that new job requires a college degree. Then it would be advisable for the person who is unsure to get a college degree first then go to work.

- If a person has a college degree he is qualified for more jobs than a person with only high school education. Although a college student has to pay a fairly large sum for his education, he likely has a better choice at the job he chooses.

- A person is not going to do much in life if all he has is his high school education, he might get a job that will keep him underground for the rest of his life but with a college degree there is always the hope that there will be a job available.
  .... if you did go to college to get a degree, if you changed your mind about your profession during your first years of college you can alter your courses and turn to something else.

- A college degree is useful in so many ways. It usually leads to the highest paying jobs, better benefits, proffessions can be started. Without a degree you usually settle for lesser paying jobs.

- ... a better education means a higher paying job.

- ... the college based jobs would be the jobs that provide more money...

- There is usually more money involved also when a person gets a job because of his degree from college and that is the only reason why a person would and that is to make a living.

- Students that [don't attend college] will eventually be the students who will be unemployed and live a life with very few luxuries.

- ... But society has many levels ranging from the high income upper class to the low income lower class. If an individual wishes to live in a higher level of society he or she must have the education or have been lucky enough to be born in a wealthy family or to win the loto.

- ... if I were to look for a job right now the only jobs that I would be acceptable for would be menial jobs such as garbage collector or boxboy. As of now I have no perceptible skills which might land me a job which would adequately support my living habits. After having lived in a middle income family for eighteen years it would be quite difficult to adjust to one of a lower income of say 50 dollars a week.

- ... others go hopeing when they get out they will get a big paying job.

- There are those people who are extremely ambitious and go to college only so they can get out, get a job and make lots of money fast.

- ... you have the knowledge to set up your own business or practice. In the trade part of it [education], you may end up working for someone all your life, and not succeed to a higher level of income.

- Still another possibility is getting a degree for the money it may bring. Some people think that they can make money with the job they obtain by their degree. This is fine for them if it is what they really want.

- A person with a college degree has the ability to obtain a higher paying job ...

- To me college is a challenge and hence the jobs [that colleges train people for] are also a challenge. Where as the other jobs, abundant as they are, offer a great deal less personally and financially.

- If we compare the annual income of a stenographer and an Architect I imagine there would be a tremendous difference in the two.

- Many people go the college and get a degree enabling them to make more money than the person without a college degree this is also another added attraction.

- Then there is the complaints of the cost of going to college. However, when one considers the salary he will make when he gets a job, then a student loan doesn't seem like that much.

- More money can be attained in your salary with a degree as a beneficial backup. Better agreements with your management in contracts can be attained because your studying in all those years should have wisened you to most things.

- He has a better chance ... of making a decent salary according to what profession he has entered ... will most likely earn more money ...

- In most cases the people with a college job or a good trade recieve the most money.

- I will probly make more money every year than the person in the trade.

- ... students who do go to college in hopes of ataining of degree are more abted to get a job that is more sutiable in relation to income, standing, merit and requirements.

- If you do acquire a certain job with your degree you will probably receive higher wages.

- ... one must remember that the college graduate gets more promotions and usually bigger paychecks.

- It may be easier and more convenient to get a diploma and immediately enter the working world, but it may be wiser to study and compete for the higher paying job.

- On the other hand the learning of a trade will most likely be a job that will require less of your mind. Although this is not true in all cases, it will probably correct for the majority of cases.

- Since there is more jobs avaliable to those with only grade 12 education, it is safe to assume these jobs to be less fulfilling, and leaving the holder of a, let's say, a salesperson's job with a feeling of emptiness as one who has not used one's full capacity ... Jobs requiring only grade 12 education are not rewarding ... waiting on people behind a counter requires no real brains, and therefore, the brain becomes stale, and unalert. You must feel that what your doing everyday - five day a week is significant.

- ... a job is something that you should enjoy doing and look forward to do with each passing day for the remainder of your life. I'm not saying that stenography is unuseful or monotenous career, on the contrary it is a responsible and useful job to many people. But I think that most stenographer's would rather be doing some other

job which requires a higher education, granted not all stenographers feel this way ... but what I'm saying is that most people would rather be doing work which is enjoyable and entails a higher education.

- We were given a mind; a mind that could hold and store information. Therefore, one should educate it to its fullest capacity in a field one feels would be most stimulating and rewarding to oneself...

- Another reason for choosing to obtain a college degree is that a person might be happy doing something which can only be done by having a degree ... It must be a terrible ordeal to work from day to day at a job with which you are unhappy.

- At the present almost anyone can scrape up enough intelligence and imagination to become a gas station attendant, a repairman or a salesperson.

- A person only lives one life so you may as well work at what interests you.

- As far as I'm concerned your going to be working for probably more than half your lifetime so why not spend a few years getting prepared for it. There's no sense spending fifty years hating your job and the people you work with.

- It is very important to find the best position for yourself in life. This is because you will probably be spending the next 30 to 40 years in the field you choose. You want to make them as enjoyable as possible.

- I want to spend my life doing something I want to do and that requires a college degree.

- ... that job is something which I would like, because you will be doing it the rest of your life.

- I feel the main point in attending university or a trade is to obtain training in a job you like and will enjoy in life. Since much of your life is spent at work you may as well like what you are doing and enjoy life.

- ... remember, you have to work for the rest of your life.
  For example, the job I plan to work at requires a college degree. Since there is no other job I would like to work at I plan to get the degree and look for the job I've always wanted. Although jobs in this

field are scarce I still plan to go ahead with my plans because there is no other work I am interested in and it is the kind of work I am always interested in. Therefore in my opinion people should work at the job they can handle and desire the most because a happy worker is the best worker.

- ... If you have grade 12 you might get a job as a labourer and who wants to be a labourer all their lives. Some people maybe but I no myself I would not like that type of work. So college seems like the answer for me.

- ... to be perfectly honest, I do not intend to sepnt the rest of my days working at Woolco. Your job is your livlihood and if you don't enjoy it it would make your life miserable.

- ... people without a college degree are doomed to jobs similar to what I was doing, which was working in to woods. I know I'm not the only one who would rather do better in life than that ... I also believe the better the education you get, the less strenuous and definetly better paid job you can acquire.

- Students [who] are discouraged from going on to college ... end up going out into the labour force early in life. Some make it big, but most either end up in a job where there is no room for advancement or where they are constantly moving from one job to the next trying to find a happy medium.

- Many people have jobs such as salesman, hospital attendants, etc. but do they enjoy it? That is a very important question. Many of these people hate their jobs. They go to work every day hating their job and hate it even more each day. It doesn't have to be this way for the young people.

- It is my hope that college will prepare me for my life's occupation. Therefore it is important to me that this should be something I enjoy. I don't want a job that involves manual labor.

- I figured out [my] goal after months of thinking while working at a menial job. Perhaps all high school students should take a year off to travel, work, and think about what they want.

- Now there is nothing wrong with ... manul labour it is just as low as you can go. I see education wether through College or self taught or from nature as mans only escape of boredom.
  I don't mean ho hum boredom I mean life time of it. Possibly life times, now that does not mean if you are satisfied with digging a ditch quite. Go right ahead just don't try and tell me I'm supposed to be content to do the same.

- I could never see myself being a stenographer ... That might be al right for some person but not me. I think what really made up my mind was taking a year or two off. I worked while everyone else went to college, and can even say I enjoyed it for a little while. The income was great. I came and went as I pleased, never worrying about writing a test or exam the next day. After a while I got tired of it and realized that I just wouldn't be able to stand doing this for the rest of my life, the same old "blah" hum-drum job.

- The labor force can be viewed upon as a circle where the work for the manual labourer is provided by the technician. And the work for the technical is provided by the designer or the person who's abilities stretch beyond the technilogical aspect. So if a person thinks he can stretch or expand his abilities to their peak he should go for a college degree. And with it pursue a career so to say where the brains instead of the brawn is needed.

- Many people are not capable of going to college, getting an education that way, but on the other hand, most are. There is a job for everybody. People who aren't capable of "college" have jobs accordingly, but for a lot of people, these jobs would be terribly degrading and dissatisfying...

- Alot of young people say 'well I want 12 years thats enough' and try to get jobs and be a part of society. A lot of them get jobs but most of the jobs they get they do not like or they are not satisfied with.. Then they look back and see that with 12 years of school this is all they are qualified for.

- [students] ... prefer a job they really enjoy. In my opinion a student would like to have self-satisfaction, ... and get a job he prefers rather than one that pays well or is in demand.

- I believe that a major thing for everybody is not to loose their self-respect. One must go by their conscience and their heart or else they will most probably live a miserable life. One must find the job that they will be happy and content with.

- Do not look at the question money wise or the demand, but only what makes the individual heppy.

  For instance if it takes me twenty year's to become a guidance counselor, I will study for twenty years, and when I do if there are no jobs available in Canada or the United States I will go somewhere where there is..... so you see it does not matter if there are no job openings, a person should study the field she wants.

- *There's also the possibility that if you achieve a degree that maybe, just maybe you will find a good job one you personally will enjoy.*

- *I want to work at what I'm happy with an enjoy doing...*

- *I signed for the course I did because that is what I would like do. Sure I took into account the job outlook but I sure as hell would not become a salesman just because I was assured of a job. ... The only thing that makes sense to me is doing what you would like to do.*

- *If you go for a job that is in demand but, it was not what you wanted then what good is it if you are not interested in working that position.*

- *Should young people go to college for a degree. Some yes others no; why! a person should do what he or she knows best and also enjoy and take pride in it. Let's take an example you! yes you. While you read this essay, think back. Why did you go into this job, evaluating this essay for writing ability and reading. Do you believe in helping to correct student like myself? Wouldn't you take pride, if out of 200 students essay, that over a period of two year's they improve 300% or over in reading and writing. If you take pride in this good; if not you are in trouble!*

- *There would be nothing worse than going to a job everyday that you have no interest in and you always wished you had another job.*

- *... more responsibility ... I will felt at the end my job has more meaning.*

- *[Another] advantage to attending a school of higher learning can be found in personal happiness. The jobs which are in demand may prove interesting enough for some, but others just wouldn't be satisfied with a job which didn't require all of their thought or wasn't mentally stimulating.*

- *In spite of the fact that the job of stenographers or salespeople are in great demand, such jobs are, undoubtedly, not nearly as interesting as those of a psychologist or sociologist.*

- *Also with a college decree promotions are more apt to come his way. An employer is more apt to choose someone with a decree than one without for the higher positions.*

- *... on the other hand the person who only has the choice of working in a department store as a clerk, I tend to feel sorry for them. They will never feel important or rewarded by doing this job.*

- ... college graduates are better people for their educational experience and they are also more broadminded. An employer is more apt to hire a person holding a degree than a high school graduate even for a part-time job in the summer (a clerk). If all of these ... jobs required a college education maybe society would be a little more intellectual than it is today.
  Think of what great salespeople and hospital attendants we'd have if they used a little psychology. But how are they to know how to use it if they've never studied it?

- ... the knowledge and understanding of the reason behind all this will make the future less complicated for those who have taken time to further their studies.
  ... Our parents and friends look towards us as the key to change and improvement... a college degree will always be a benefit to ourselves and our community.

- ... when a person goes on for a college degree that person will be further developing their education... and the world will always need well educated people.

- I think in about 20 years from know our society is going to be completely computerized and a person will need a college education to survive.

- By personal experiences I have seen people get their degree and never use it. But they turned out to be much better people for it. They had a deep interest in community affairs, church affairs and any other matter that could possibly effect their environment ... I think a college education is a necessity for the improvement of the world we live in.

- If you are going for a college education, the individual should look at the future in a way so that his years of training and preparation will fit in and help his society not just go to college to say you went there.

- Furthermore, it usually take college graduates to manage manufacturing industries and so on, and if there are no college graduates to carry out such tasks, there will be no jobs for anyone.

- If everyone felt that because there were no jobs available that they shouldn't go on to college then the situation would worsen. College Professors would lose their jobs and fewer people would be educated. Our society could then begin to decline. Our brains would not be used to their fullest extent and we could revert back in time.

- *If no one goes to college then the College professors would be out of a job, too. [Therefore] a college degree not only helps people with jobs but also helps society in general.*

- *If the majority of students didn't go to college and tried to enter directly into the work force, there would most certainly be an uncontrollable overflow. What will happen to those who can not get a job?*

  If a certain amount of young people go to college, the number of people entering the work force at any given time will be easier to control.

- *More over, I feel if everyone decided not to attend college where would our country end up. Who would be able to work out economic, racial, social or any other problems which occur.*

- *Education for centuries has been regarded as being important, for years it was a luxury that only the elite could afford. Then as the world progressed education became a necessity... Men and women who plan to raise families need to support them.... I cannot think of one thing wrong with the thought of a miner or steelworker carrying around a college diploma.*

- *... highly trained men and women are needed in great demand for our society to survive and I for one am willing to better myself for the betterment of society.*

More About Intellectual Development

- Knowledge, even for the sake of knowledge itself is priceless...

- Once upon a time colleges and universities were called institutions of learning. The past and the present have apparently developed a loose association... now attitude is to to get the piece of paper called a degree and use it as a springboard into the job market... I can see where the attitudes of society have changed, but I grew up with an ideal of learning to better understanding.

  The best example I can give of "wanting to learn" is myself. The courses I plan on taking in college are, by a clear majority, English courses and History courses. My plans for the future include teaching either of the two. Now many people have told me that the worst subjects one could hope to teach are english and history. They are bottom of the barrel as far as jobs are concerned and this is an over-populated profession. Nevertheless, undaunted, boldly and heartily I refuse to listen to the siren song of big or abundant bucks. I will continue my education because that's exactly what it is - not a free "pass go, collect $200" card.

  As far as I understand learning and jobs have occasionally run together, but they just are not the same animal - "the way I see it, anyway!"

- Also for a person to have a degree behind them means a broader spectrum of knowledge for them.

- ... he does have a degree - a chance, a book of knowledge that was not present upon leaving High School. His mind has broadened, his intelligence has increased.

- Some people regard knowledge as light and supposedly by going to a college or university a students knowledge will increase.

- ... my position is strongly in favor of a college education. Our ancestors recognized the value of learning. Look around you it is obvious that they hadn't been in the dark as far as wisdom goes.

- I feel that most people eventually see the value in an education. It may take a good teacher to pound it into their head, but eventually the see the importance in it at one point or another.

  Education can be so rewarding and fulfilling that it is sometimes hard to put into words how sensational it can be. Every aspect of education is fulfilling in some way or another. Education is both practical and aesthetic and when you see the beauty in it you know its worth it but you can't explain why. Its like when you try to speak of divinity, the divine flies out the window.

- *If a person can see more than just a money opportunity in furthering his education, then he should take in all the learning he possibly can.*

- *... one should notice the wide degree in which technology has found its way into labor orientated jobs. For example; one can easily imagine the amount of technological change that has presented itself to a garage repairman over the past twenty years. Thus, there is a need for people doing labor jobs to become more familiar with technology and its effects on their lifestyles.*

- *The main goal of a university education along with the goal of getting a good job is the learning aspect ... I feel acquiring knowledge is as important as landing a job in the end.*

- *So while we are waiting for the ... jobs we may as well be learning and raising our education level.*

- *It may be a waste of time and money to some people, but as far as I am concerned, I will obtain knowledge and no one will be able to take that away.*

- *each one of us will learn from this [college] education. We are put on the earth to learn ...*

- *... a way of widening your education.*

- *An education gives you a greater understanding of life and a greater ability to communicate with the people around you. In my mind an education should be obtained by all people if possible ...*

- *... to have an education gives a person a broader out look on life.*

- *I have just decided it's better to go to college because it gives you a better knowledge of things and therefore you can cope with the world of today.*

- *A college degree fulfills your educational needs.*

- *You can never know or learn too much and what you would learn in college would help you cope in the outside world regardless of the type of career you plan to enter.*

- *I believe that if you can go to college, you should go and aquire as much knowledge as possible.*

- Some people are satisfied with graduating from High School and then just working in a store or as a secretary. But other people feel it is not enough to just finish their academic education so easily. The search for more knowledge is greater in some people than in others.

- Some people ... are very ambitious, curious and thrive on knowledge ...

- The ability to learn is a gift, a skill which should not be avoided.

- A college or university education is not always preparation for a job after three or four years of study.
  An educational experience at a college to many is an awakening, and sometimes a startaling one as to what the world has to offer a human being.

- ... when you go to college it furthers your education which does not hurt too have at all. You be able too understand things much more clearer then some people because they do not have the know how.

- ... learning more and understanding skills of reading and writing still puts us ahead ... Most graduates that go to college aren't force to, they like it and learning thnigs everyday makes one feel better.

- ... attending college also increases your knowledge. I firmly believe that a person, young or old, should go to college if only for the experience because people learn through experience.

- ... a college education will be one of the best facets of my life. It will develop my intelligence to a greater degree and also I will study that which interests me the most.

- I feel a college education is a good mental preparation for life ... I feel you would be a better person socially and intellectually.

- A college or university offers the student a chance to mature intellecually and can give he or she a much broader base of knowledge to work with.

- Such courses [science and communication] are very good training even for mechanics and other such industrial workers. Training in sciences will help them understand more about the materials they are working with.

- ... Those who are truly interested in an academic future will remain faithful to the universities ... [We] feel that we should go on to

university, not to avoid manual labour (which we may do anyway) or to gain a superficial amount of knowledge, but to continue along the areas of our interests which are best aided by a university education.

- ... there are people who would like to increase their knowledge in a particular field, so for these people a college degree would be beneficial.

- Science ... is a study I am fully interested in. It will reveal to me many things I do not know at present...

- As for going to college, if a person has a thirst for knowledge in a certain field he will go to college and it will make sense to him as long as he is happy and doing something he is truly interested in.

- A college degree... entails that the person develop his or her own mind to a greater extent. I see too many people walking around with "dead" minds. I have worked with many people that are uneducated after high school. These people did not care or in some cases did not have the opportunity to further educate themselves. Perhaps this is why so many of the older generation take courses now. They want to better their minds and their lot in life.

- They have been able to broaden their knowledge, to learn new and interesting things, to be able to understand what we do and why we do it. Self-improvement is the motive behind many people's going to college but also with this degree they are able to choose to go to work or to stay home... it offers new challenges, self-improvement in your knowledge, your understanding and can give you a much better insight on life and what it can offer you.

- To want to have a better understanding of the world surely cannot be a black mark against further education... Those who so not continue on ... are often not informed on whats going on. They have stopped as well their learning ability and no longer exercise their brain.

- The reason why I an attending university... is because in University I will have trained personal teaching me how to live in our society today.
  ... trade school just point something out (it show you how to do something) while university trains your mind ...

- solid education will broaden your mind and your thinking abilities. It will make you more aware of the society in which you live. A good education will develop your skills for communication with other people and help you to understand things easier.

- *Education is a vital part of our society and what better way is there to educate ourselves than by going to college. There is alot to be learned about our world and society and I feel that college will give the young people this knowledge.*

- *I personally feel you could never pay enough for increased knowledge or the gift of communicating well with people; two things college definitely offers.*

- *I think that a person going into a trade should even try a few years of college because it would improve their reading and writing skills and also make them more apt to understanding problems the world has to face.*

- *Knowledge in itself would make the experience of going to university worthwhile... Knowledge is a wonderful thing, be it obtained through talking with another person, reading or studing. It opens up one's world by making one aware of more, therefore able to enjoy more. It broadens one, like travel. A person broadens his understanding of himself and society. Therefore, no learning could be a waste.*

- *Well to me education is an important part of life. It is one of my goals, not only for what job I may receive because of my degree, but for my need to be educated in the sense that I will have the knowledge about people, places and society as a whole.*
  I want to go to college to learn about many things not just about the courses I have chosen... whether I get a job from it or not I will have succeed in my desire for more and a better education.

- *I would sooner be educated by going to college, therefore I would have a fairly good idea of what is going on in the world.*

- *Going to college will help you get along better in your society, and you may have a higher level of reading and writing which is required for jobs of tomorrow.*

- *There are advantages for those people who choose a college degree. They will obtain good reading and writing skills which will be required in the job world.*

- *If an individual attains a college degree and feels it should reap a cornucopia of wealth then maybe he held an over optimistic view. If an individual aspires to a college degree on the premise of becoming a more knowledgeable person to better serve his personal needs and the needs of his country, then no error in personal judgement has been entered into by this action.*

- *In college you can expand your knowledge of people and self-expression ... more awareness of society and the role you can play in it.*

- *... a student should get a college degree because the degree will help them understand more, and they will be able to progress in society just as much as society progresses itself.*

More Responses to Social Convention and Personal Conviction

- To get an education is a chance of a life time, its something you can always keep.
- Now don't try saying I think all men should go to college. But to tell the truth would it hurt.
- ... education is a great teacher. I would encourage any student to go get a degree. What harm could it bring? To me the only harm is the thought of not trying.
- Education to its highest degree is possible is so what can you lose? There is really nothing to lose but lots to gain.
- A person can have the sdtisfaction of knowing that he or she has a College education and that they will always have their education.
- You can never loose anything by getting a college degree. It is something you will have, no one can take that away from you... No matter what you do a college degree will never harm you.
- "With a college degree, you can always fall back on it."
- A college degree when you have it is always good it is something you can always fall back on... seriously any education is always good you will always have it and it will help you achieve your goal in life.
- ... those people who are college graduates... will always have something to rely on.
- Once you have a degree you will always have it... If you have the degree you will always have it to rely on and you can use it when you need it.
- ... something that you will always possess.
- ... makes you feel you have not wasted your life.
- ... if you are abiz to go to college, then grab that opportunity and don't let go of it. See your dreams come true and find out how great it feels on graduation day...

- ... to some people, obtaining a degree was not meant as a requirement for a job but was obtained for themselves. To be able to say I achieved this for myself, means alot to some people.

- ... if you try and do your best no one can knock you for that.

- By obtaining a college degree I feel that you have worked to your full potential and will continually use this throughout your life...

- For anyone wishing to make something of themselves, something worthwhile and lasting, I believe that a further education would be most beneficial.

- Plus the fact that many people working in the labor market may not be satified with themselves, feeling they have not achieved the most in life.

- I would heartily recommend a young man or woman to persue a college or post-secondary level of education... I truly believe that an individual should strive to get the most out of life, and not to settle for second best.

- ... if you have tried to get the occupation of your choice but constantly failed, some extra knowledge [from college] would never hurt you anyway!

- Anyone who is not sure what they want to do should go to college and obtain some courses...

More About Character Development

- The four or five years spent in college can't be wasted. The years add a maturity to students...

- College gives the students a chance to be independent, a chance to expand their horizonds...

- ... colleges get you out to meet people to gain knowledge, to be able to mature to your fullest extent.

- The purpose for college is to expand your horizons, increase your intelligence and become socially aware while pursuing the career or profession that you have chosen.

- College ... will also help develope you as a person, develope your mind, give you a feeling of fulfillment, and will give you a sense of discipline.

- College prepares people for a lot of things, such as coping in nerve-wracking situations, becoming independent and also in communicating and meeting new and very different types of people. ... Also aside from the book learning you receive, college life itself teaches you a lot. It's a life of increased independence, communicating with people which is very important in almost any type of job.

- ... the trial and error experienced while obtaining this degree leaves you with a much more rounded improved individual, that is able to use this degree in the most bennificial way possible.

- When one lives away from home, without the security of family's and neighbours' loyalties, being able to socialize and get along with people is essential. One must learn to do just this at college, away from home. Discipline is a must away, at a big college, and is an important part in growing up and becoming a mature adult.

- When a student attends a college he meets people under many different scircumstances. This is learning.

- College is not only a matter of receiving a degree after so many years. There is the social aspect as well. This would include the people he meets as well as the activities he involves himself in.

- ...the experience he has gathered from his friends at university is well worth the money spent if something is learned from these experiences.

- A college degree... provides you with a full understanding of people.

- Even if he accepts a job as a sailperson he can put his education to work in his dealings with people.

- I feel I am going to college to be a better person. One not only learns about a certain topic, but one learns to communicate with people on a higher level and to me this is important.

- Just attending university and meeting people is learning even though a pass in all your courses is beneficial also.

- Cooperating with classmates and of making friends, some who we will be close to forever.

- ... living with the same people every day in a "school atmosphere", because in a school atmosphere putting up with the one who bugs you for homework, and reports, without taking it out on family members is a gain essential and part of learning to live and get along with people.

- Wherever you endeavour people people will always exist, therefore the knowledge of dealing and living with people is much more advantageous than having a specified training program that teaches you to type but nothing else.
  When one does search for a job that he is specially qualified for because of a college degree, and is unable to find one, he has the ability to find some sort of job using the knowledge of living and dealing with people.

- I hope to gain experience,.... and mature a little more, to prepare myself for society and life in general....

- It is in college that students learn to have an open mind, for students are constantly being confronted with new situations ... I hope that once my years of college are over I can truthfully say that I am a much better person because of it. If I can say this, then a college education has done it's duty and makes a great deal of sense.

- Also, communication is very important... Our world is such that every day we are faced with situations where we have to deal with people. College, again, (hopefully) would have prepared us for this. I'm sure that a college graduate could much better handle a job interview than a high school graduate. Today, competition is very stiff for jobs. You have to come out looking like number one. College would prepare you to deal with this competition.

- College education is a vital part of a persons life. I think people have a wrong outlook on college, as a place of academic knowledge and nothing else. This is just not the case, college plays an important role in the basic requirements of life. People learn what life is like away from parents, how to develop a social envirement.

- It allows you to be an individual and it makes you appreciate your education all the more.

- A college education learns a person how to think on his own, to cope with the fact that to achieve anything in life a person must work hand and foot at it if he is ever to get anywhere in our world which is forever gaining a much faster pace. It makes a person more aware of himself so he can think quick and almost immesiating forward his reaction to some form of stimuli.

- Most of the students entering college today are not going with the outlook of having a good time, because with the expence of going to college today it would be stupid to waste it. Therefore they become more serious about their work and strive to succeed.

- College not only provides education for obtaining goals but also provides education for life outside schools wether in a high level or not.

- No matter what we do in life, we can always be a little better at our jobs. College education improves our personality and ability to cope with problems at work.

- A college degree provides us with the opportunity to exand ourselves and to meet the various emotions which greet each day. Therefore, those of us who are entering the college field must look with anticipation to the horizons which are waiting for us to grasp. Our fount of wisdom and happiness can be made to overflow all the days of our youth and more important our old age if we work toward our goal and remain open to every facet the world as to offer us as students.

- ... the experiences he would have received while in college would be invaluable to him and would be sure to help him succeed somewhere...

- Education is very important, it helps people to grow up. High school students today are not mature enough to go out into the working field. College gives a person a sense of responsibility, the student is out on his own for the first time and learns to cope with it because

he's surrounded by people in the same position. College broadens the mind. It gives people a taste of the outside world where as people who go immediately into the working field don't really have time for the outside world.

- *College offers many things, it is a level of development, students in college have a chance to listen to others views, to express their own thoughts more freely... The maturing process of college often justifies the students enrollment all by itself.*

More Related Comments

- *I think the majority of people who do go to college, go because they have a goal in line and want to achieve this.*

- *A goal may be set in their life which requires a degree.*

- *Why are people still entering education, when our demand for teachers in this province is much lower than the U.S. figures? Perhaps, because they always wanted to be a teacher, the fulfillment of a childhood dream.*

- *It all depends on what a person wants out of life, what the goals are, the dreams, the aspirations, the expected lifestyle.... This goal of mine may change, but I am training for it by attending college... university is a necessity to me...*

- *Of course not everyone is interested in... technology programs. Many want to become doctors, lawyers, nurses, etc., it may even be their life's dream, their greatest desire...*

- *What I am going for contains the basis of what I want to do in life.*

- *My line of thinking has always been to set a goal for yourself and to strive to fulfill it, even if it requires that you make sacrifices.*

- *It's important for me to get a college degree... because it's what I want.*

- *A college degree will give some people an opportunity of achieving their goal in life...*

- *[College] is what I want. I believe that to be the person I hope to become having a college degree is necessary. ... to satisfy me.... because college offers what I want most.*

- *I feel if you are good enough at something you should have no problem obtaining a job... In today's society you have to be good at what you do in order to succeed in any field.*

- *There are colleges everywhere and if you want to pursue a career which you have always wanted then you may do so. It may be hard work but if you want it bad enough you'll achieve it.*

- For the person who has a goal in life, college today most frequently is the answer....
  I feel it makes alot of sense if the person going to college sets up in his own mind his goal and destination and works at it as best as he possibly can and graduate coming out on top. Thus making him above all other student in his field and giving him the number one opportunity of receiving a job when it comes along.

- It's how you apply yourself to your goal in life that is important. Where there is strong ambition a goal is achieved.

- If a young person getting out of high school is really determined, than I feel there is some point of them going on to college... This may make the students try harder.

- If the person thinks he can be the best and find one of the [few] jobs, then he should definitely go on to college.

- If a person has a desire and will to enter in one specific career then it does make sense to enter college after high school.

- ... if a person has a higher education it is logical that he would obtain the job before someone of a lower education... And so, a college graduate is one step up on many other people in our society.

- Better to be trained in the field where they know there are chances of jobs waiting for them in their chosen profession.

- I feel if a person is going to continue his or her education in a college or trade they should go into something... where jobs will be available. Plan for your future.

- ... it is wise that a high school graduate continue his or her education. There is one limitation however, I don't feel that he or she should enroll in a class or plan to take a degree in a field that there are no jobs awaiting.

- Has I see it, the world is moving to a more scientific and highly technical society where refined skills only found in colleges will be needed.
  ....[especially in]" The division of Arts.. it is up to the student himself, to make the right choice in the field he wishes and take into special consideration the job market for this field.
  ... places of higher education are to important in today's society for their role to diminish. Some changes may have to be made and new courses brought into to study for a changing world...

- Another point I would like to discuss is one which all higher education students know. That is that there are many branches in any one subject which they may choose and then they could let the labour market have an effect by choosing a branch with the most opportunities.

- For example a young person who likes children and wants to work around them become a teacher while a person who gains satisfaction through working with his hands becomes a carpenter. It depends on the individual.

- But we must have a percentage of stenographers and salespeople in our society, and if one is content with that occupation - fine, he or she has no reason to attend college. For those who are not suited to those jobs or those ambitions souls who wish to better themselves educationally or wish to have a more stable, better paying job, they should attend college.

- I believe that anyone who is academically-inclined in any way, knows what he or she wants from university to aid in future endeavors, and is willing to put forth a valiant effort to obtain whatever goals he or she sets for himself or herself then people who fit into this mold would be well-advised to attend university....
  On the other side of the coin there are people who are mechanically-inclined. Here are people that should heed the advice of taking a trade instead of going to university.

- ... for some people, the best route to take would be to go out into the world and work because maybe they were never born to go to college.

- I should start off with a point a high school teacher once told me - "College is for people who want to learn and further their education, technology schools are only for those who want a mob." ... I'm not putting down technical schools or training schools, I think they are great for those who only want a job after high school. It's just that college attracts a certain kind of people and technical schools attract another kind of people.

- Students have different abilities and they should presue a carreer best suited to the abilities they have. For example a student with the ability to be a carpenter shouldn't try to be a doctor. This is where the Guidance department steps in. Students should be incouraged to become more involved with guidance councellors and find out from them what carreer they are best suited for and then presue that career.

- [College] would be senseless for someone who realizes he or she can't compete with people more competed then them at thier level. I feel a person should be brought to realize at a matur age what thier capabilities are so they may become concentrated at once on that career rather than waste five years of his life in lawschool when he only has the capabilities of a police officer. I realize that some people do not want to accept these things, but a broader knowlege and understanding of capabilities would produce a better equipped world in the long run.

- Sometimes it is easier for a college graduate to get a job because employers want intelligent people.

- Anyone who is willing to devote their time, work and money to a college education must have their two feet on the ground, their head on their shoulders, and a pretty solid idea of what they want to become.

- This would be an easy question to answer if everybody were basically the same mentally, but thank God we aren't. So if my idea [for attending college] were inherited it would require a lot of great advisors and a lot of testing to cover a wide range of area's and field's. This could only give every student an idea to his or her's potential in a particular field, but the end decision should still be his or her's to make, because its their life and future.

- Not all high school graduates are college material. If too many people went to college, the amount of "space-takers" would probably outweigh the "learners" and thus, the quality of college graduates as a whole would drop.

- The average young person coming out of high school should not bother going to college or university for a degree unless they are very intelligent or have certain plans for the future.